



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

July 11, 2007

The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa, President
and Members of the Senate
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Madam President and Members of the Senate:

Re: House Bill No. 777 HD2 SD2 CD1

On July 10, 2007, House Bill No. 777, entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to the Hawaii Educator Loan Program" became law without my signature, pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii.

The bill makes changes to the Hawaii Educator Loan Program administered by the University of Hawaii and appropriates \$250,000 in general funds to the University for the program.

I am a strong supporter of the Hawaii Educator Loan Program and believe it is a tool we can utilize to increase the number of qualified teachers in Hawaii. That is why I introduced House Bill No. 2350 and Senate Bill No. 2313 in 2006, to provide program and funding support to the Hawaii Educator Loan Program. However, this bill does not adopt the programmatic changes that would increase the number of qualified teachers in Hawaii.

Recipients of the Hawaii Educator Loan Program should be allowed to attend any State approved teacher education program approved by the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board, not just the University of Hawaii. Other Hawaii colleges who have State approved teacher education programs include Brigham Young University – Hawaii, Chaminade University of Hawaii, Hawaii Pacific University, and the University of Phoenix – Hawaii. However, the students who attend these schools cannot qualify for the Hawaii Educator Loan Program. Further, recipients of the program should be able to teach in charter schools.

I am hopeful that the Legislature will come back next year and make these needed changes to the Hawaii Educator Loan Program in order to increase the number of qualified teachers in Hawaii.

The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa, President
and Members of the Senate
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For the foregoing reason, I allowed House Bill No. 777 to become law as Act 273 effective July 10, 2007, without my signature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "L. Lingle", written in a cursive style.

LINDA LINGLE